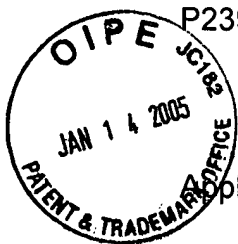


IFW



P23970.A03

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Takuji HAMASAKI

Appln. No. : 10/690,649

Filed : October 23, 2003

For : POWER/MANUAL LENS BARREL HAVING A MANUAL OPERATING RING

Group Art Unit: 2872

Confirmation No.: 9144

Examiner: Mack, Ricky L.

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
220 20th Street S.
Customer Window, Mail Stop _____
Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03
Arlington VA 22202

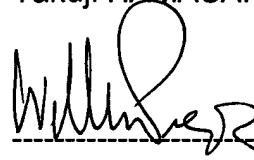
Sir:

In response to the Notice of Allowability, mailed by the Patent and Trademark Office on October 14, 2004 and to the Statement of Reasons for Allowance attached thereto, Applicant wishes to clarify the record with respect to the basis for the patentability of claims in the present application. In this regard, while Applicant does not disagree with the Examiner's indication that certain identified features are not disclosed by the references, Applicant submits that each of the claims in the present application recite a particular combination of features, and that the basis for patentability of each of these claims is based on the totality of the particular features recited therein.

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Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Takuji HAMASAKI



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January 6, 2005
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